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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/934,806	08/22/2001	Herman Uitterhoeven	212967	8829

23460 7590 02/26/2003
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EXAMINER

CHEA, THORL

ARTICLE PAPER NUMBER

1752

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/934,806

Applicant(s)

UYTTERHOEVEN ET AL

Examiner

Thori Chea

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 5-6, 8-15 are is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 5-6, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gilliams et al (Gilliams).

Gilliam discloses an aqueous dispersion containing silver salt of aliphatic carboxylic acid and silver halide in column 17, example 3; column 17, example 6; in column 21, example 19; and column 4, lines 23-28 and in column 9, lines 21-40. Gilliam in column 15, Examples 1 discloses the use sodium hydroxide to provide the aqueous solution to pH of 8.7 and in column 17; Example 2 discloses the formation of silver halide in-situ using the conversion of silver behenate. The aqueous solution in Example 2, column 17 contains 0.079 moles and 0.022 mole of silver halide.

The aqueous solution claimed in the present claimed invention and that taught in Gilliams are identical, except that composition of the claimed invention contains ex-situ

silver halide whereas silver halide taught in Gilliam is made by in-situe process, but the pH of the composition are the same. Accordingly, it is asserted that the composition as claimed is either anticipated or found obvious over Gilliam. Moreover, the invention as claimed is related to the claiming of a material by a process. "(E)ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior art product was made by different process." In re Thorpe 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 694, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

4. Claims 8, 10, 11, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gilliams et al ('616). Note to Gilliam in column 17. Examples 2, and column 15, Example 1 which discloses the preparation of silver behenate and in-situe silver halide by first forming an aqueous solution having an pH of 8.7 using sodium hydroxide to control the pH thereof and then using conversion process by adding drop wise of potassium bromide. The aqueous solution contains 0.079 mole silver halide behenate and 0.022 moles of silver halide. Gilliam taught the process and the aqueous composition containing in-situe silver halide and light insensitive silver salt of organic acid as claimed and the claims invention lacks novelty.

5. Claims 9, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilliam et al ('616).

Gilliam discloses to regulate the pH by adding acidic or alkaline solution in column 6, lines 33-37; organic reducing agent in column 8, lines 38-58. It would have been obvious to use reducing agent in the aqueous solution for reduction of light insensitive silver salt of an organic acid such as suggested therein to provide the claimed composition. The use of the basic solution such as ammonia to regulate the pH has been common in the art.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed December 9, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the reason set forth above. Gilliam discloses the process of forming the aqueous dispersion containing in-situ silver halide and the light-insensitive silver salt of an organic by first forming the light-insensitive silver salt of an organic acid by first forming an aqueous solution having an pH of 8.7 and then converting the light-insensitive silver salt of an organic acid such as discussed in the paragraph 4 above. The argument with the unexpected results is not persuasive since "(E)vidence of secondary considerations, such as unexpected results or commercial success, is irrelevant to 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections and thus cannot overcome a rejection so based. In re Wiggins, 488 F.2d 538, 543, 179 USPQ 421, 425 (CCPA 1973). Note to claims 8, 10, 11, 15 wherein the silver halide is made by in-situ at pH of 8.7. Claims 5-6, 14 are related to the use of ex-situ photosensitive halide, the composition thereof is the same as taught in Gilliam even though they are made by different process. "(E)ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a

product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior art product was made by different process." In re Thorpe 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 694, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). The applicants fails to show as to why the claimed material are patentably distinct over the material of Gilliams. The argument with respected to unexpected results is not persuasive the material presented in the specification was not prepared according to the teaching of Gilliams especially Example 1, and moreover, the argument with respect to the unexpected results is based on the Counsel's assertion. Counsel's arguments cannot take the place of evidence. In re Greenfield, 571 F.2d 1185, 197 USPQ 227 (CCPA 1978).

7. Claims 1-4, 7 are allowed over Gilliams since Gilliams fails to teach or fairly suggest the process of raising the pH of the aqueous dispersion to pH of at least 8.0 when the ex-situe photosensitive silver halide is used. The allowance of claims 8-10, and 13 set forth in the previous office action are withdrawn in view of newly found that Gillimams discloses to adjust pH of the aqueous dispersion to 8.7 such as set forth above.

Conclusion


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The supplemental disclosure statement filed December 9, 2002 has been considered and made of record.


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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thorl Chea whose telephone number is (703)308-3498. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet C Baxter can be reached on (703)308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9301 for regular communications and (703)872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

tchea 
February 23, 2003


Thorl Chea
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752